

Atty. Docket No. JP9-1999-0804US1
(590.017)

REMARKS

It should be noted the fact that August 7, 2004, fell on a Saturday ensures this paper is timely filed as of Monday, August 9, 2004.

In the Office Action dated April 7, 2004, pending Claims 1-16 were rejected and the rejection made final. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the following remarks.

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. On August 5, Applicants' counsel conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner during which the present invention and the Williamowski et al. reference was discussed. While no agreement was reached with respect to the claims, it was agreed the Williamowski reference did not teach search engines having a dedicated language.

Claims 1-16 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. All claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Schabes et al. Claims 12-13 and 15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Lakritz. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16 have been rewritten to incorporate language from the preamble of each respective claim regarding a "dedicated language"

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into the body of the claim. For example, element (b) of Claim 1 now recites "selecting a suitable search engine from a plurality of search engines, each of said search engines having a respective dedicated language". Similar language appears in the body of Claims 7, 12, 14, and 16. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by these amendments; these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

The comments previously made with respect to Williamowski et al. are equally applicable here. As best understood, Williamowski et al. appears to be directed to cross-lingual information retrieval wherein a search query is translated into various languages and then the original query and its translations are presented to a search engine to increase the likelihood of relevant documents being returned by the search. While a user may specify a number of items, including the language of the query and the language into which a query is translated (Col. 5, lines 37-40; Fig. 6, Reference Nos. 604, 608), there is no teaching or suggestion in Williamowski et al. of selecting a search engine based upon the dedicated language of the search engine and then translating the query from the native language of the user into the dedicated language of the search engine.

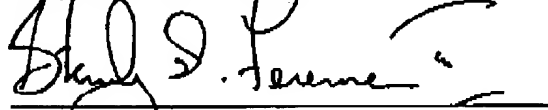
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13, and 15 are also presently allowable.

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In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-16, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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